

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02012 112134Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NEA-10 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

COME-00 /050 W

----- 031636

R 112016Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 424

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD ECON PGOV SOCI

RCUBJ: TWO HAITIANS FOUND GUILTY OF CUSTOMS FRAUD

REF: PAP 1876

1. ON AUGUST 6, THE WIFE AND FATHER OF PORT AU PRINCE BUSINESS-MAN HARRY BOUTROS WERE TRIED AND FOUND GUILTY OF CUSTOMS FRAUD AND SENTENCED TO 3 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT, A FINE, AND LOSS OF BUSINESS LICENSE. BOUTROS HIMSELF REPORTEDLY ESCAPED PROSECUTION BY PAYING A FINE OF 400,000 DOLLARS, REPRESENTING PENALTIES ON SEVERAL YEARS OF FALSE CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS.

2. LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY THE SO-CALLED ARAB COMMUNITY, SEES THIS AS CLEAR INDICATION FROM GOH THAT CUSTOMS "IRREGULARITIES" OVERLOOKED IN PAST WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED. ALTHOUGH BOUTROS HAD ATTEMPTED TO MAKE AMENDS BY PAYING FINE, GOH PROCEEDED WITH CASE AGAINST MRS. BOUTROS, THE NOMINAL OWNER OF BOUTROS' FABRIC SHOP, AND AGAINST FATHER, A CAP HAITIAN BUSINESSMAN BELIEVED TO BE BRAINS BEHIND FRAUD OPERATION. AS WITH OTHER PAST CRIMINAL CASES ATTRACTING PUBLIC'S ATTENTION, TRIAL WAS TELEVISED AND RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS.

3. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUG 9 COL.

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PAGE 02 PORT A 02012 112134Z

VALME, A PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF TEAM INVESTIGATING CUSTOMS,

SAID PRESIDENT DUVALIER WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP UP THE  
PRESSURE FOR CUSTOMS REFORM. VALME EMPHATICALLY AGREED  
WHEN AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS,  
PAINFUL AS THEY MIGHT BE, COULD ONLY REDOUND TO LONG-TERM  
BENEFIT OF HAITI.  
ISHAM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CORRUPTION, FRAUDS, CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS, TRIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTA02012  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750277-0287  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750864/aaaaceft.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PORT AU PRINCE 1876  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 SEP 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** ETRD, ECON, PGOV, SOCI, HA, (BOUTROS, HARRY)  
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**Type:** TE  
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